(c) Railways always strive to improve the quality of food and service. This is an ongoing and continuous process. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include, introduction of casserole service, modernisation of base kitchens, training to catering staff, introduction of pantry car service, regular/surprise inspections, etc.

Mosquito repellants etc. under purview of Central Insecticides Board

1843. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of mosquito repellants, coils, creams etc. with pesticides are on the market and if so, whether these have been cleared by the Central Insecticides Board and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a thorough analysis has been made and record kept of pesticides used so and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring all these products under the Insecticide Act and apply all consumer protection laws to these products dangers of which are not fully understood or known?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) Some of the mosquito mats/coils available in the market as repellants having pesticides, have been registered by the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Repellant creams, however, are not registered as they do not come under the purview of the Act.

(b) Yes, Sir. The mosquito repellants in the form of mats or coils containing pesticides are registered by the Registration Committee after evaluating the data on different set parameters as generated by the industry, and after satisfying itself regarding their safety to human beings and animals.

(c) Mosquito repellants and coils except for creams, having pesticides, are covered under the Insecticides Act, and goods, as defined in the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, which suffer from one or more defects are covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1968.

Claims made by NDDB officers

1844. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the claims made by NDDB Chairman for blowing up NDDB's 10 oilseeds plants as appeared in ihe 'Times of India' dated the 13th July, 1991;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the similar claims aimed at publicity made by NDDB since 1970 in respect of 2 other senior staff; and

(c) whether a High Powered enquiry would be conducted from the above 3 involved persons to get at the truth and for taking corrective steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) NDDB received an annonymous letter threatening to blow up all the oil packaging stations involved in packaging NDDB's product "Dhara". The letter further contained a threat to the life of the Chairman, NDDB and his family.

(b) There have been no claims aimed at publicity by the NDDB.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Thefts and piferage in trains

1845. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts and pilferage of railway materials and booked consignments are on increase despite manifold increase in the strength of R.P.F.;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 upto June, 1991;

(c) whether expenditure on R.P.F. has been increased by thirty times from First Plan period;

(d) if so, the reasons for increase in pilferage and thefts;

(e) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. This is mainly due to increase in establishment charges such as salary, D.A. etc.

(d) There has been no increase in number of cases of thefts of railway property. In fact, the number of cases of thefts have declined by 25.85 per cent during last 10 years.

(e) and (f) The followng preventive measures are being taken to prevent thefts and pilferage of Railway property:-

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable and important consignments as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons carrying consignments vulnerable to theft etc.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/deployed in vulnerable secions as far as possible.
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in vulnerable yards and areas as per their availability.
7. Close co-ordination between the RPF, the GRP and the local police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen property.

Draw of the allotment of flats for EWS by the slum wing of DDA

1846. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 489 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether some applications were rejected before the draw;

(b) if so, the basis for rejection,

(c) whether applicants of rejected applications have been advised in advance;

(d) whether successful applicants of the draw have also been advised till now; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 35 applications were rejected due to incomplete information/documents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Date and time of the draw was published in the local news papers. The draw was held on 30.11.1991 and the list of 92 successful applicants was displayed on the notice boards. Demand-cum-allotment letters are under issue.